

AMENDED SET OF CLAIMS

1. Method for exchanging telecommunication traffic
between users in a telecommunications system (1),
5 comprising a satellite communication network (2), such as
the Inmarsat system, built up from several
telecommunication satellites (4) which are operatively
coupled, by way of radio transmission links (6), to one
or more earth stations (5), which earth stations are
10 operatively connected, by way of a service centre (7), to
an earth communication network (3) built up from fixed
and/or mobile telecommunication networks (9;10;11;12),
characterised in that messages having an address code
(32) short to such a degree that no complete network
15 address can be included, and received in the service
centre (7) from users (13;14;15) by way of the satellite
communication network (2), are stored in electronic
mailboxes (21), said messages being distributed among the
mailboxes on the basis of an address code (32) or part
20 thereof, by way of at least one lookup table (35) and the
address code referring to a reference included in the
lookup table.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in
25 that messages received from a group of users (13;14;15)
are stored in a common mailbox (24;25;26).

3. Method according to claim 2, characterised in
that messages from users associated with a
30 telecommunication operator are stored in a common mailbox
(27;28).

4. Method according to claim 3, characterised in
that, in a common mailbox, messages are stored
35 distributed over separate mailboxes (21).

5. Method according to one or more of the preceding
claims, characterised in that a mailbox is selected on

the basis of said address code (32) included in a message received and an identification code (31) associated with the user in question.

5 6. Method according to claim 5, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises at least a first (36) and a second (37) address block, the one address block referring to a user-specific mailbox (21) and the other address block referring to a mailbox common to a group of users (24;25;26) , a mailbox in question being
10 selected from the first or second address block on the basis of the address code (32) received.

15 7. Method according to claim 6, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises a third address block (38) in which references are included relating to a group of most recently transmitted messages.

20 8. Method according to claim 7, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises a fourth address block (39) in which references are included relating to services to be rendered to a user, a service in question being selected on the basis of the address code received.

25 9. Method according to claim 8, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises 128 consecutively numbered references, the first address block (36) referring to the first 32 references having the lowest sequence numbers, the second address block (37) referring
30 to the next 32 references, the third address block (38) referring to the still following 32 references, and the fourth address block (39) referring to the 32 references having the highest sequence numbers.

35 10. Method according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterised in that the messages stored in a mailbox may be transmitted to an authorised user on demand.

11. Method according to one or more of the claims 1 to 9 inclusive, characterised in that the messages stored in a mailbox are transmitted automatically to an
5 authorised user, in clusters of messages, if so required.

12. Method according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterised by a user's account associated with an electronic mailbox, for crediting thereto the costs
10 involved in receiving, storing and transmitting messages.

13. Device for exchanging, in a telecommunications system (1), telecommunication traffic between users
15 (13;14;15), which telecommunications system comprises a satellite communication network (2), such as the Inmarsat system, built up from several telecommunication satellites (4) which are operatively coupled, by way of radio transmission links (6), to one or more earth
20 stations (5), which earth stations are operatively connected, by way of a service centre (7), to an earth communication network (3) built up from fixed and/or mobile telecommunication networks (9;10;11;12), characterised by control means (23) for storing in
25 electronic mailboxes (21) messages, having an address code (32) being short to such an extent that no complete network address can be included and received in the service centre (7) from users (13;14;15) by way of the satellite communication network (2), the control means
30 (23) distributing said messages among the mailboxes (21) on the basis of an address code (32) or part thereof, by way of a lookup table (35) and the address code referring to a reference included in the lookup table.

14. Device according to claim 13, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for storing, in a common mailbox (24;25;26), messages received from a group of users.

15. Device according to claim 13 or 14, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for selecting a mailbox (21) on the basis of said address code (32) included in a message received and an identification code (31) associated with a user in question, the control means comprising an identification-code-related lookup table (35) provided with references to mailboxes for selecting said reference or mailbox, as the case may be, on the basis of said address code and identification code received.

16. Device according to claim 15, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises at least a first (36) and a second (37) address block, the one address block referring to a user-specific mailbox (21) and the other address block referring to a mailbox common to a group of users (24;25;26), the control means (23) being arranged for selecting, from the first or second address block on the basis of an address code (32) received, an individual or common mailbox in question for storing a message received therein.

17. Device according to claim 16, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises a third address block (38), in which references are included which relate to a group of most recently transmitted messages, the control means being arranged for selecting a message on the basis of an address code (32) received.

18. Device according to claim 17, characterised in that the lookup table (35) comprises a fourth address block (39), in which references are included which relate to services to be rendered to a user, the control means being arranged for selecting a service in question on the basis of an address code received.

19. Device according to one or more of the claims 13 to 18 inclusive, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for, if so requested, transmitting to an authorised user messages stored in a mailbox.

5

20. Device according to one or more of the claims 13 to 18 inclusive, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for automatically transmitting, to an authorised user, messages stored in a mailbox.

10

21. Device according to claim 19 or 20, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for erasing stored messages after the transmission thereof from the mailbox.

15

22. Device according to one or more of the claims 13 to 21 inclusive, characterised in that the mailboxes (21) and the control means (23) are mounted in the service centre (7).

20

23. Device according to one or more of the claims 13 to 22 inclusive, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for storing, by way of a transmission link, messages received in remotely located mailboxes.

25

24. Device according to one or more of the claims 13 to 23 inclusive, characterised in that the control means (23) are arranged for tariffing services rendered to a user.

30

25. Telecommunication unit, comprising user interface means and transmission means (34) for exchanging telecommunication traffic between users (13;14;15) in a telecommunications system (1), comprising a satellite communication network (2), such as the Inmarsat system, built up from several telecommunication satellites (4) which are operatively coupled, by way of radio transmission links (6), to one or more earth stations

35

(5), which earth stations are operatively connected, by way of a service centre (7), to an earth communication network (3) built up from fixed and/or mobile telecommunication networks (9;10;11;12), a message transmitted by the transmission means having an address code (32) being short to such an extent that no complete network address can be included, and the messages received in the service centre (7) from users (13;14;15) by way of the satellite communication network (2) being stored in electronic mailboxes (21), the transmission means being arranged for distributing said messages among the mailboxes on the basis of an address code or part thereof by way of a lookup table (35) and the address code referring to a reference included in the lookup table.

26. Telecommunication unit according to claim 25, characterised in that the transmission means (34) are arranged for transmitting an address code selected from a first (36) or second (37) address block, comprising address codes which refer to a user-specific electronic mailbox (21) or a common electronic mailbox (24;25;26) for storing therein a message transmitted by the transmission means.

27. Telecommunication unit according to claim 26, characterised in that the transmission means (34) are arranged for transmitting an address code selected from a third address block (38), comprising references relating to a group of most recently transmitted messages, or a fourth address block (39), comprising references relating to services to be rendered to a user.